United Nations E/CONF.93/L.6 (Abstract)

# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
24 November 2000
English
Original: Spanish

**Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas**
New York, 22-26 January 2001
Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda*
**Reports on achievements in surveying, mapping and charting in addressing national, subregional, regional, and global issues**

## Cooperation between Spain and the Ibero-American countries in technical training involving cartographical materials, geographical information systems, digital image processing and GPS technologies

**Paper submitted by Spain****

## Summary

The importance of professional training for technical personnel using new technologies involving global positioning systems (GPS), geographical information systems and satellite remote sensors, as applied to the fields of geodesy and cartography, is recognized by all countries dedicated to the promotion and development of activities of this type and has been emphasized continually at recent United Nations regional cartographic conferences for the Americas.

In this connection, and echoing the recommendations made by the United Nations, the Government of Spain, through the National Geographical Institute, a body under the authority of the Ministry of Development, and the Spanish International Cooperation Agency, a body under the authority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is cooperating in providing technical training to personnel from the Ibero-American countries in such areas as cartography, digital image processing and global positioning systems (GPS) technologies by offering a number of courses on those subjects.

* E/CONF.93/1.

** Prepared by Manuel García Pérez, Secretary-General of the National Geographic Institute.

00-76621 (E) 121200 131200

## Background

Cooperation between Spain and the Ibero-American countries in providing technical training in such areas as cartography, geographical information systems, digital image processing and GPS technologies began in 1994 with the agreement adopted at the thirtieth meeting of the Governing Council of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (IPGH). Under this agreement, approval was given for the first course on digital processing of satellite images with cartographical applications to be given in Aguascalientes, Mexico, with the participation of Spain as an observer member of IPGH through the National Geographical Institute and Mexico as a permanent member of IPGH through the Mexican National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information.

Subsequently, at the thirteenth meeting of Directors of Geographical Institutes of South America, Spain and Portugal (DIGSA), held in Madrid in 1996, an agreement was reached to open a path for cooperation in the training of technical personnel from the DIGSA member countries in digital cartography, geographical information systems and GPS technologies, in which Spain would participate as a member of DIGSA through the National Geographical Institute, with the collaboration of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency.

In any case, the National Geographical Institute of Spain will be responsible for the tuition costs and the equipment and supporting documentation issued to the students attending each of the courses. For the courses that are taught at the Spanish International Cooperation Agency training centres in the Ibero-American countries, the Agency offers its facilities free of charge, including classrooms as well as room and board.